THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Explainer: How the UN is promoting a 'global commitment to fight corruption'

United Nations News: 8 December 2023

Countries across the world need to work together, according to the head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144582

Ukraine Battles Corruption Through Smartphone App

Leo Chiu - Kyiv Post: 8 December 2023

Ukraine is one of Eastern Europe's leading tech hubs, and that expertise is now taking the fight to the frontline against corruption.

https://www.kyivpost.com/post/25193

For more on this theme:

Prosecutions coupled with zero-tolerance culture key to fighting SA's corruption scourge

https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/prosecutions-coupled-with-zero-tolerance-culture-key-to-fighting-corruption-2023-11-24

Fighting corruption globally through digitalization

https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2023/11/21/fighting-corruption-globally-through-digitalization.html

Corruption can increase environmental efficiency and improve economy in developing countries, study argues

https://phys.org/news/2023-11-corruption-environmental-efficiency-economy-countries.html

Russia: Sabotage, Incompetence and Corruption in Russia

https://www.strategypage.com/qnd/russia/20231128.aspx

How anti-corruption efforts strengthen global democracy and security

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-anti-corruption-efforts-strengthen-global-democracy-and-security/

Xi Jinping's anti-corruption drive worked wonders on his bureaucrats' waistlines

https://www.theguardian.com/comment is free/2023/dec/03/xi-jinping-anti-corruption-drive-has-worked-wonders-for-bureaucrats-waistlines

Corruption and crime: Measuring the links

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/corruption-crime-ocindex/

The Qatargate Files: Hundreds of leaked documents reveal scale of EU corruption scandal

https://www.politico.eu/article/european-parliament-qatargate-corruption-scandal-leaked-documents-pier-antonio-panzeri-francesco-giorgi-eva-kaili/

Lombok sand mine corruption probe continues as Indonesia to resume exports

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/lombok-sand-mine-corruption-probe-continues-as-indonesia-to-resume-exports/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug lords go on killing spree to hunt down corrupt officers who stole shipment in Mexico's Tijuana

Mark Stevenson - The Associated Press: 10 December 2023

Two officers suspected of theft have been killed, prosecutors say, along with at least three others.

https://apnews.com/article/mexico-tijuana-drug-theft-officers-killed-9d4102b8b55f7e4f2c-681c6c05056765

Civil-War-Torn Myanmar Surpasses Afghanistan as World's Top Opium Producer

Grant Peck - Time: 12 December 2023

The country, already wracked by a brutal civil war, has regained the unenviable title, according to a United Nations agency report.

https://time.com/6358170/myanmar-opium-production-afghanistan/

For more on this theme:

Former El Chapo associate shares insider tips with US law enforcement

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/former-el-chapo-associate-shares-insider-tips-with-us-law-enforcement-2023-12-06/

Disputes Over Drug Trafficking Routes Drive Child Recruitment in Ecuador

https://insightcrime.org/news/disputes-over-drug-trafficking-routes-drive-child-recruitment-ecuador/

Coca in Honduras: Cultivating and Consuming Fear

https://insightcrime.org/news/coca-in-honduras-cultivating-and-consuming-fear/

30 Years After Escobar, How the Cocaine Trade Has Changed

https://insightcrime.org/news/30-years-after-escobar-how-the-cocaine-trade-has-changed/

His job was to secure boats for drug trafficking shipments. Now he's a convicted felon

https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/article282579913.html

Organized crime in Brazil's Amazon threatens the fight against climate change

https://english.elpais.com/climate/2023-12-01/organized-crime-in-brazils-amazon-threatens-the-fight-against-climate-change.html

Treasury announces Counter-Fentanyl Strike Force, led by anti-terrorism office, to fight spread of deadly drug

https://www.yahoo.com/news/treasury-announces-counter-fentanyl-strike-112609137.html

When Cocaine Comes to Paradise

https://insightcrime.org/investigations/when-cocaine-comes-paradise-moskitia-honduras/

U.S. Border Patrol is using AI to crack down on fentanyl trafficking

https://www.axios.com/2023/12/07/fentanyl-trafficking-ai-border-patrol

Europol's 7th European Annual Drugs Conference

https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/europol%E2%80%99s-7th-european-annual-drugs-conference

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

\$20,000 monkeys: inside the booming illicit trade for lab animals

Phoebe Weston - The Guardian: 7 December 2023

A lucrative underground risks undermining research, creating new pandemics and pushing a recently abundant species to the brink.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/dec/07/how-the-demand-for-lab-monkeys-is-drivingtrade-in-endangered-macaques-aoe

Crimes against the Climate: Violence and Deforestation in the Amazon

International Crisis Group: 8 December 2023

Organized crime has infiltrated the Amazon basin, seeking land for growing coca, rivers for drug trafficking and veins of gold underground. These groups are endangering the rainforest and the safety of those attempting to defend it.

https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/brazil-colombia/crimes-against-climate-violence-and-deforestation-amazon

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500 arrested in global crackdown on illegal wildlife trade

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2023/12/12/france-interpol-World-Customs-Organization-illegal-wildlife-500-arrested-endangered-animals/9871702387776/

European Union mulling crackdown on Chinese exports

https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/premium/supply-trade/european-union-mulling-crackdown-on-chinese-exports

What are NDFs? A vital tool for the future of sustainable trade in wild species

https://www.traffic.org/news/what-are-ndfs/

Chinese gold miners 'illegally' tearing up Cambodian wildlife sanctuary

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/chinese-gold-miners-illegally-tearing-up-cambodian-wildlife-sanctuary/

Colombia, Brazil destroy illegal gold dredges in Amazon rainforest

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/colombia-brazil-destroy-illegal-gold-dredges-amazon-rainforest-2023-12-06/

Peru's deadly gold mine attack highlights growing security risk, costs

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/perus-deadly-gold-mine-attack-highlights-growing-security-riskcosts-2023-12-04/

Peru's crackdown on illegal gold mining a success, but only briefly, study shows

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/perus-crackdown-on-illegal-gold-mining-a-success-but-only-brieflystudy-shows/

Bosnians Living Near Coal Mines Fear Illegal Digging, Landslides

https://www.rferl.org/a/bosnia-herzegovina-coal-mines-illegal-residents-pollution-prijedor-sanski-most-landslide-energy/32715715.html

Coast Guard Pacific partnerships push back against illegal fishing

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/coast-guard-pacific-partnerships-push-back-against-illegal-fishing/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Subnational Practices in Al Policy: A Working Guide

lan Klaus and Ben Polsky - Carnegie: 12 December 2023

Such jurisdictions are grappling with the tangible impacts of AI. Their efforts provide an important space to learn best practices for policy going forward.

https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/12/12/subnational-practices-in-ai-policy-working-guide-pub-91186

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(Asia) Everyone wins with better Asian Al governance

https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/12/03/everyone-wins-with-better-asian-ai-governance/

(China) China's short-sighted AI regulation

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinas-short-sighted-ai-regulation/

(Ukraine) Ukraine's AI road map seeks to balance innovation and security

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-ai-road-map-seeks-to-balance-innovation-and-security/

(EU) Landmark Al Deal: Will Europe Succeed as the World's Digital Regulator?

https://cepa.org/article/landmark-ai-deal-will-europe-succeed-as-the-worlds-digital-regulator/

INTERNET FREEDOM

The Al Assault on Women: What Iran's Tech Enabled Morality Laws Indicate for Women's Rights Movements

Rachel George - Council on Foreign Affairs: 7 December 2023

Iran and other countries in the Middle East are increasingly using artificial intelligence as a tool to crack down on women. International standards need to address the impacts of technology on such repression.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/ai-assault-women-what-irans-tech-enabled-morality-laws-indicate-womens-rights-movements

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(India) Internet out: India deploys shutdowns in name of security

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/11/24/asia-pacific/politics/india-internet-shutdown-tactic/

(Indonesia) Indonesia softens internet law after critics complain of misuse

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesia-softens-internet-law-after-critics-complain-mis-use-2023-12-05/

(Guinea) Radios jammed, social media blocked in latest threat to media freedom in Guinea

https://rsf.org/en/radios-jammed-social-media-blocked-latest-threat-media-freedom-guinea

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

Australia needs to talk more openly about offensive cyber operations

Ben Scott - The Strategist: 8 December 2023

Australia's 2023 cybersecurity strategy makes clear that most of the things we need to do to protect ourselves in cyberspace are essentially defensive.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australia-needs-to-talk-more-openly-about-offensive-cyber-operations/

For more on this theme:

(Global) To Beat China and Russia in Cyberspace, Change the Game

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/alternative-perspectives/to-beat-china-and-russia-in-cyberspace-change-the-game

(EU) EU Takes Cyber Defense to the Next Level with Cyber Solidarity Act

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18298-eu-takes-cyber-defense-to-the-next-level-with-cyber-solidarity-act

(Global) UK and allies expose Russian intelligence services for cyber campaign of attempted political interference

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/uk-and-allies-expose-cyber-campaign-attempted-political-interference

(Greece) Greece Moves to Enhance Cyber Security Amid Frequent Attacks

https://balkaninsight.com/2023/12/11/greece-moves-to-enhance-cyber-security-amid-frequent-attacks/

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The Impact of Improved Internet Access in Somalia

Any Uak Media: 10 December 2023

Increased availability and reliability of internet services have revolutionized communication, education, business and governance, transforming the lives of citizens.

https://anyuakmedia.com/the-impact-of-improved-internet-access-in-somalia/#gsc.tab=0

For more on this theme:

(Global) "Hacking" the cybersecurity skills gap in developing countries

https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/hacking-cybersecurity-skills-gap-developing-countries

(Qatar) Qatar Cyber Agency Runs National Cyber Drills

https://www.darkreading.com/cyber-risk/qatar-cyber-agency-runs-national-cyber-drills

(U.S.) DoD Officials Consider Creating Central Cyber Workforce Program Office

https://www.afcea.org/signal-media/cyber-edge/dod-officials-consider-creating-central-cyber-workforce-program-office

CYBERCRIME

Microsoft seizes infrastructure of top cybercrime group

AJ Vicens - Cyber Scoop: 13 December 2023

Relying on a court order, the tech giant seized websites belonging to a top purveyor of fraudulent accounts.

https://cyberscoop.com/microsoft-seizes-infrastructure-of-top-cybercrime-group/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Newest UN cybercrime treaty draft slammed

https://www.scmagazine.com/brief/newest-un-cybercrime-treaty-draft-slammed

(Global) New cybercrime market 'OLVX' gains popularity among hackers

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/new-cybercrime-market-olvx-gains-popularity-among-hackers/

(Global) Cybercrime Orgs Increasingly Use Human Trafficking to Staff Scam Mills

https://www.darkreading.com/cybersecurity-operations/cybercrime-orgs-human-trafficking-staff-scammills

(Australia) Australia's cybercrime surge: Expert warns investors and companies to prioritise security

https://themarketherald.com. au/australias-cybercrime-surge-expert-warns-investors-and-companies-to-prioritise-security-2023-12-08/

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Iran-Linked 'OilRig' Cyberattackers Target Israel's Critical Infrastructure, Over & Over Elizabeth Montalbano – Dark Reading: 14 December 2023

The prolific APT repeatedly compromised targets in healthcare, manufacturing and government with new downloaders that blend into network traffic for evasion.

https://www.darkreading.com/ics-ot-security/iran-oilrig-cyberattackers-target-israel-critical-infrastructure

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(China, U.S.) China's Hackers Are Expanding Their Strategic Objectives

https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/china-s-hackers-are-expanding-their-strategic-objectives

(Ireland) Cyberattack on Irish Utility Cuts Off Water Supply for Two Days

https://www.securityweek.com/cyberattack-on-irish-utility-cuts-off-water-supply-for-two-days/

(Germany) LockBit Ransomware Adds German Energy Agency Dena to its Victim List

https://thecyberexpress.com/german-energy-agency-dena-cyberattack/

(U.S., China) Report: Chinese hackers targeted Texas power grid, Hawaii water utility, other critical infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Exploit and Evade to Remain and Expand: The Cross-Platform Evasion Toolbox of Islamic State Supporters

Moustafa Ayad - Global Network on Extremism and Technology: 13 December 2023

"News outlets" are the next generation of tactics by Islamic State group supporters currently laundering official Islamic State group media for larger audiences.

https://gnet-research.org/2023/12/13/exploit-and-evade-to-remain-and-expand-the-cross-platform-evasion-toolbox-of-islamic-state-supporters/

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EU Commissioner Warns Europe Over Huge Risk of Terrorist Attacks During Christmas Holidays Due to War Between Israel & Hamas

https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/eu-commissioner-warns-europe-over-huge-risk-of-terrorist-at-tacks-during-christmas-holidays-due-to-war-between-israel-hamas/

Britain to repatriate woman and five children from Syrian camps

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/dec/12/britain-to-repatriate-woman-and-five-children-from-syrian-camps

Counter-terrorism police to be given more powers to retain biometrics

https://www.ukauthority.com/articles/counter-terrorism-police-to-be-given-more-powers-to-retain-biometrics/

CSO Calls For Intelligence Gathering Against Terrorism Financing

https://leadership.ng/cso-calls-for-intelligence-gathering-against-terrorism-financing/

Telegram's Bans on Extremist Channels Aren't Really Bans

https://www.wired.com/story/telegram-hamas-channels-deplatform/

Rising Risk of Radicalization in Indonesia Following Outbreak of Israel-Hamas War

https://james town.org/program/brief-rising-risk-of-radicalization-in-indonesia-following-outbreak-of-israel-hamas-war/

Radical Islamist Weaponized Drone Use I&W (Indications & Warning) in Africa: A Terrorism Research Note

https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/radical-islamist-weaponized-drone-use-iw-indications-warning-africa-terrorism-research

Afghan Insurgent Groups Step Up Attacks, Political Campaign Against Taliban

https://www.voanews.com/a/afghan-insurgent-groups-step-up-attacks-political-campaign-against-tali-ban-/7386099.html

Do terrorist attacks and mass shootings make big companies more 'honest'?

https://phys.org/news/2023-12-terrorist-mass-big-companies-honest.html

Iraq: UN team issues latest report on terrorist atrocities

https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144367

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

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2023 Review of The Fund's Anti-Money Laundering and Combating The Financing of Terrorism Strategy

https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2023/12/05/2023-Review-of-The-Funds-Anti-Money-Laundering-and-Combating-The-Financing-of-Terrorism-542015

ISIS propaganda seducing 'new generation of teenagers,' French domestic intel

https://www.politico.eu/article/isis-propaganda-france-intelligence-radicalisation-teenagers/

ISIS abused girls as young as nine, UN says

https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2023/12/05/isis-abused-girls-as-young-as-nine-un-says/

Meaningful Transparency for CVE: Process not Policy

https://gnet-research.org/2023/11/23/meaningful-transparency-for-cve-process-not-policy/

Terror in Uganda: what's driving the Islamic State-linked rebels

https://theconversation.com/terror-in-uganda-whats-driving-the-islamic-state-linked-rebels-218628

The Philippines is battling a resurgent Islamic State threat

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2023/12/08/world/philippines-islamic-state-threat/

Taliban Reportedly Dismantled Islamic State Bases in Western Afghanistan

https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-reportedly-dismantled-islamic-state-bases-in-western-afghanistan/7389590.html

Can't Stand the Heat?: Best Practices and Institutional Responsibilities to Safeguard Extremism Researchers

https://gnet-research.org/2023/12/11/cant-stand-the-heat-best-practices-and-institutional-responsibilities-to-safeguard-extremism-researchers/

IntelBrief: The Sahel Continues to Burn as the World Focuses Elsewhere

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-december-13/

Sweden Shuts Down Publicly Funded School Over Jihad Links

https://european conservative.com/articles/news/sweden-shuts-down-publicly-funded-school-over-jihad-links/

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Pakistan Seeks US Help Against Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan

https://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-seeks-us-help-against-pakistani-taliban-in-afghanistan/7397076. html

What the United States Should Do About the Terrorist Threat to Pakistan

https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/what-the-united-states-should-do-about-the-terrorist-threat-to-pakistan

Al Qaeda Saharan branch leader announces new Jihad phase against juntas

https://www.france24.com/en/video/20231213-al-qaeda-saharan-branch-leader-announces-new-jihad-phase-against-junta

What does the Israel-Hamas conflict mean for Africa?

Ronak Gopaldas and Menzi Ndhlovu – Institute for Security Studies: 12 December 2023

African countries must exercise economic prudence and geopolitical tact to minimize war-induced disruptions.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/what-does-the-israel-hamas-conflict-mean-for-africa

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Countering Hamas requires making life better for Palestinians, says retired **US** general Petraeus

https://www.straitstimes.com/world/countering-hamas-requires-making-life-better-for-palestinians-says-retired-us-general-petraeus

Is Hamas the same as ISIS, the Islamic State group? No - and yes

https://theconversation.com/is-hamas-the-same-as-isis-the-islamic-state-group-no-and-yes-219454

The Outlines of a Solution in Lebanon?

https://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/91199

Petraeus says Israel should try U.S.-style counterinsurgency in Gaza

https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/12/07/petraeus-says-israel-should-try-us-style-counterinsurgency-in-gaza/

IntelBrief: Israel Turns Attention to Hezbollah Amid Northern Escalation

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-december-12/

Does the Resistance Axis believe its propaganda about Israel? The October 7 attack seems to suggest so.

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/resistance-axis-hamas-israel-iran-propaganda/

China is fixed on discrediting the US on Gaza War. But this policy lacks credibility and will likely fail.

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/china-gaza-hamas-israel-war/

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on the Israel-Hamas war and the future of the Middle East

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/news/transcripts/egyptian-foreign-minister-sameh-shoukry-on-the-israelhamas-war-and-the-future-of-the-middle-east/

The Order of Battle of Hamas' Izz al Din al Qassem Brigades, Part 1: **North and Central Gaza**

https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/the-order-of-battle-of-hamas-izz-al-din-al-gassem-brigades-part-1-north-and-central-gaza

Hamas Wrought Destruction, But at What Price?

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Missile Defense in the Israel-Hamas War

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The Resurgence of Armed Groups in the West Bank and Their Connections to Gaza

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France to host meeting on tackling Hamas financing, online activities

https://whbl.com/2023/12/12/france-to-host-meeting-on-tackling-hamas-financing-online-activities/

Iran's 'Resistance Front' And Its Bridge With South Asia – Analysis

https://www.eurasiareview.com/08122023-irans-resistance-front-and-its-bridge-with-south-asia-analysis/

Israel-Palestine: Challenges to a Post-War Two-State Solution

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/israel-palestine-challenges-to-a-post-war-two-statesolution/

Re-evaluating China's Role in the Israel-Hamas Conflict: Objectives and Limitations

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/re-evaluating-chinas-role-in-the-israel-hamas-conflict-objectives-and-limitations/

What's east Africa's position on the Israel-Hamas war? An expert unpacks the reactions of Kenva. Tanzania and Uganda

https://theconversation.com/whats-east-africas-position-on-the-israel-hamas-war-an-expert-unpacks-the-reactions-of-kenya-tanzania-and-uganda-218097

With the Israel-Hamas war, Sunni and Shia armed groups find uncommon unity

https://www.npr.org/2023/12/11/1218145466/israel-hamas-war-shia-sunni-iran-backed-militants

Is Syria's al-Assad supporting Hamas for political gain or optics?

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/10/syrias-al-assad-and-supporting-hamas-all-for-political-gain-oroptics

Lebanon's Hezbollah faces moment of reckoning as Israel-Hamas war in Gaza enters its deadliest phase

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Hamas, Terrorist Financing, and Cryptocurrency

https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/hamas-terrorist-financing-and-3399808/

Anti-Muslim Hate Surfaces Nationwide as Israel-Hamas War Continues

https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/anti-muslim-hate-surfaces-nationwide-israel-hamas-war-continues

Israel-Hamas Conflict Sparks Meta Oversight Board's First Emergency Case

https://www.wired.com/story/oversight-board-meta-israel-hamas/

Jordan Navigates Delicately Amid Israel-Hamas Conflict

https://themedialine.org/by-region/jordan-navigates-delicately-amid-israel-hamas-conflict/

Discrimination investigations mount against schools in the US amid Israel-Hamas war

https://abcnews.go.com/US/discrimination-investigations-mount-schools-us-amid-israel-hamas/story?id=105623676

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As the Israel-Hamas War Governs the World's Attention, Iran Is Quietly Marching Towards **Nuclear Breakout**

https://time.com/6344430/israel-hamas-war-iran-nuclear-breakout/

Israel-Hamas war may not restore Israelis' support for military reserves

https://theconversation.com/israel-hamas-war-may-not-restore-israelis-support-for-military-reserves-218777

Australian Public Divided on Israel-Hamas War

https://www.voanews.com/a/australian-public-divided-on-israel-hamas-war/7394433.html

Beyond Israel's propaganda, some signs Gazans are questioning Hamas

https://www.smh.com.au/world/middle-east/beyond-israel-s-propaganda-some-signs-gazans-are-questioninghamas-20231212-p5eqzl.html

Analysis: Has the approach to tunnel warfare changed for Israel and Hamas?

https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/12/11/analysis-has-the-approach-to-tunnel-warfare-changed-forisrael-and-hamas

What the war in Gaza means for Syria

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Israel-Hamas War: Regional Ripple Effects

https://www.cfr.org/event/israel-hamas-war-regional-ripple-effects

Misinformation about the Israel-Hamas war often follows similar false narratives

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Hamas' use of sexual violence is an all-too-common part of modern war but not in all conflicts

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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

An emboldened, confident Putin says there will be no peace in Ukraine until Russia's goals are met

Harriet Morris - The Associated Press: 14 December 2023

Amid battlefield gains and flagging Western support, President Vladimir Putin said his goals remain unchanged after nearly two years of fighting.

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Pro-Putin Disinformation Warriors Take War of Aggression to Reddit

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